(b) These representations are examined in consultation with Reserve Bank of India and the concerned banks for taking necessary follow up action. RBI monitors, on an ongoing basis, the performance of banks in lending to the priority sector, including small scale industries. Wherever specific complaints are made, necessary follow up action is taken. Besides, RBI has issued detailed guidelines to commercial banks for their lending to the priority sector. These guidelines, *inter-alia*, provide for disposal of loan applications upto Rs. 25000/- within a fortnight and those over Rs. 25000/- within 8 to 9 weeks, as well as the delegation of appropriate sanctioning powers to the Branch Managers so that the majority of loan applications are sanctioned at the branch level.

Foreign exchange earnings from exports of engineering and electronic goods

1028. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the value in foreign exchange earned due to exports of engineering and electronic goods during 1990 as compared to the year 1989 and how does the Indian export compare with that of developing countries, like Hong Kong, Taiwan, China, Singapore, Republic of Korea etc;

(b) what are the basic reasons for the country's poor export performance; and

(c) what is the strategy, if any, formulated by Government to push up the exports of engineering and electronic goods to enhance its share in the EEC market?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTTAMDAS PATEL): (a) and (b) The value of exports of engineering and electronic items during 1989-90 and 1990-91 were as follows:—

Years	Value in Rs. Crores
1989-90	3284·47
1989-90 (April-Nov.) .	1891·49
1990-91 (April-Nov.) . .	2447·75

(Source : DGCI&S)

The above value of exports in terms of US dollars works out as follows:—

Years	Value in million US dollars
1989-90	1972·69
1989-90 (April-Nov.) . .	1136 08
1990-91 (April-Nov.) . .	1390 24

It will be seen from the above that exports during April-Nov. 1990 in Rupee terms were higher than exports in the corresponding period of 1989 by as much as 30 per cent. Statistics of exports made by other developing countries are not compiled by the Govt.

(c) The Govt. has sought to promote export of engineering and electronic items broadly through providing exporters access to raw materials, components and capital goods at near world prices, by compensating exporters for domestic taxes and high cost of internal finance, by pursuing a supportive exchange rate policy and through effecting procedural simplification. Exports specially to EEC countries have been sought to be promoted through measures such as quality upgradation of selected products, harmonising of technical standards prevalent in EEC and in India, and participation in international trade fairs.

Smuggling of container cargo

1029. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that of late there has been spurt in the container cargo smuggling and that certain cases have been recently detected by the Madras Customs;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating the *modus operandi* of the companies involved, the nature of the articles items smuggled in the container cargo and the estimated value of the goods seized so far; and

(c) the action taken by Government to improve matters?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A number of cases where the importers had misdeclared to Customs the cargo being imported in containers have been noticed in the recent past. During the period from May, 1990 to February, 1991 the Customs authorities at Madras have seized goods like gold, silver, tin ingots, zinc ingots, coated fabrics, ball bearings etc. Valued at approximately Rs. 8.75 crores that had been misdeclared as silicon, zinc, ash and certain chemicals, which are allowed to be imported under Open General Licence and carry a lower incidence of duty. Whereas the goods in the front portion of the containers conformed to the description declared before the Customs authorities the goods in the middle and rear portion of the containers comprised of the misdeclared goods.

(c) The Customs Houses have been alerted against smuggling by this *modus operandi* and the emerging trends so that the examination of cargo being imported in containers is tightened. The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence which is the apex agency for the collection, collation and dissemination of intelligence on smuggling is providing active assistance to the Custom Houses and is also acting on its own directly to curb such smuggling.

Doubling of rep percentage to reduce Imports

1030. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to double the REP percentage rate to reduce imports through the normal licensing procedure;

(b) if so, what decision, if any, has been taken by Government in this regard;

(c) what is the main objective in introducing the system;

(d) whether it would substantially reduce value realisation with the reduction of price by the importers;

(e) whether super REP licences would generate black money; and

(f) if so, what corrective measures are contemplated by Government in this direction?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTTAMDAS PATEL): (a) to (f) Review of Import and Export Policy and Procedures is a continuous process and necessary measures are taken from time to time keeping in view the needs of the economy.

Incentives to NRIs'

1031. SHRI JAGESH DESAI:
CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any fresh incentives are being offered to the NRIs' to attract substantial investments in view of the financial constraints being faced by the country for developmental works; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) A large number of schemes/facilities were announced in 1982 to attract NRI investment. Government still attaches importance to investment by NRIs and has been taking a number of steps to make such investment attractive. The policies and schemes framed to attract investment by Non-Resident Indians are continuously reviewd in the light of suggestions received from different quarters including NRIs and NRI organisations. Constant effort is also make to streamline the procedures with a view to removing irritants and bottlenecks for prospective NRI investors. Government has recently set up a Co-ordination Committee to sort out any problems that might arise in the implementation of Government decisions and to respond to advice given by various NRIs' and NRI organisation and suggestions received in this regard.